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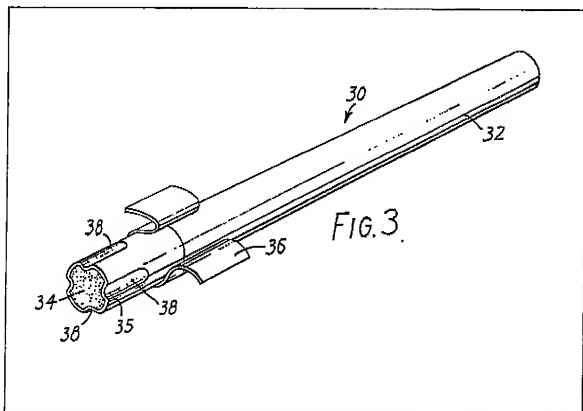
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(54) Smoke filter

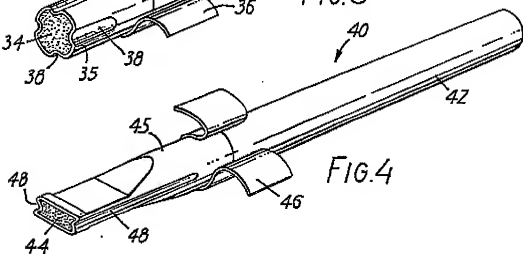
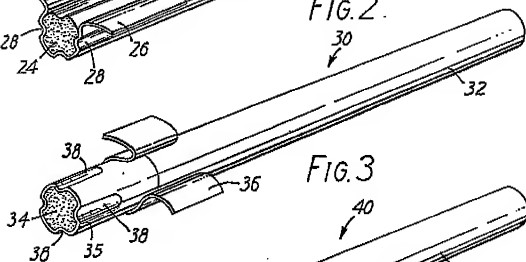
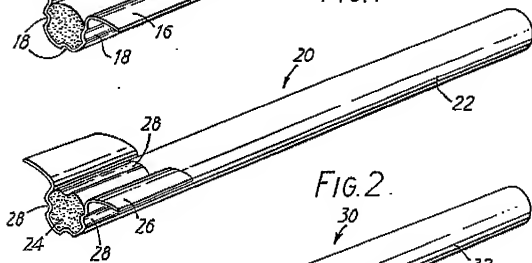
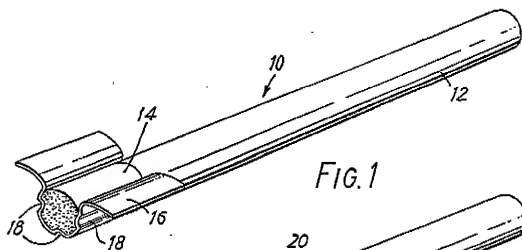
- (57) A tobacco smoke filter (34) described by a smoke-imperious plug wrap (35) is provided with longitudi-

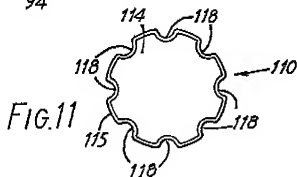
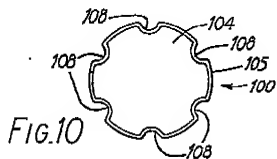
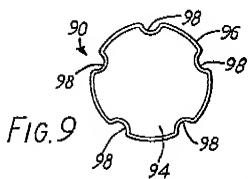
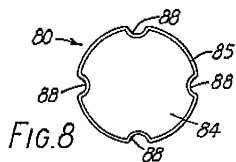
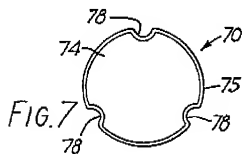
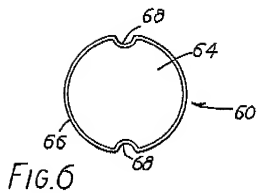
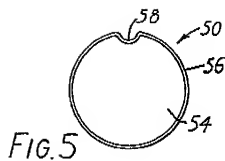
dinal grooves (38) embedded in plug wrap and filter, which extend from one end of the filter and are exposed to ambient air along their entire length to serve as open air dilution passages to conduct air into the smoker's mouth with each puff or draw. In one embodiment, the filter rod is joined to a tobacco rod with tipping paper, the grooves being defined in both the tipping paper and the filter rod. These grooves may be defined in the final assembled product by forming the grooves in the tipping paper and the filter rod at the same time. Alternatively, the filter rod is pre-grooved and the tipping paper is attached thereto so as to conform to the grooves. In another embodiment, the filter rod is wrapped with a suitable plugwrap which is either grooved simultaneously with the rod or applied to conform to the pre-grooved rod; a short tipping paper ring (36) is then applied to the joint between the filter rod and the tobacco rod.



The drawings originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy. Missing/illegible matter in the text of the specification as filed is indicated by the blank space(s) between brackets in the printed copy.

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SPECIFICATION

Smoke filter

5 The present invention relates to filter elements and the fabrication of such filter elements. Although the present invention is primarily concerned with filter means for cigarettes, it should be noted that the products of the present invention are generally useful as filters for any tobacco smoking means, e.g. cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, and may be useful for other purposes. Since filters for cigarettes have particular commercial importance, the embodiments described herein relate to filter cigarettes.

15 The present invention provides a smoke filter comprising a smoke-permeous rod and smoke-imperious wrap means circumscribing said rod along its entire length, at least one groove formed in the rod and wrap means extending longitudinally of the wrap means from at least one end thereof and being open to ambient air along its entire length. The smoke-permeous rod usually extends the full length of the imperious wrap. The invention also provides method and apparatus for making such filters, and

25 filter cigarettes incorporating them. Embodiments of the invention are described below, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

30 *Figure 1* is a view in perspective of one form of filter and cigarette in accordance with the present invention, the tipping paper being partially torn away for illustrative clarity;

35 *Figure 2* is a view similar to that of *Figure 1* of a second form of filter and cigarette in accordance with the present invention;

40 *Figure 3* is a view similar to that of *Figure 1* of a third form of filter and cigarette produced in accordance with the present invention;

45 *Figure 4* is a view similar to that of *Figure 1* of a fourth form of filter and cigarette in accordance with the present invention; and

50 *Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11* are respective end views of filters of the type illustrated in *Figure 1, 2, or 3*, showing the different numbers of grooves which can be provided in the outer periphery of the filter.

Referring to the drawings with greater specificity, and particularly to *Figure 1*, a filtered cigarette according to the present invention is generally

55 designated by the reference numeral 10. Cigarette 10 includes a tobacco rod 12 and a filter element 14 constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. A tipping overwrap 16 secures the tobacco rod 12 and filter element 14 in end-to-end relationship in accordance with well known

60 techniques in this field. Filter 14 is a generally cylindrical plug of conventional tobacco smoke filter material and typically is made from continuous tow of cellulose acetate filamentary material; it should be noted, however, that other filtering material may be employed with slight modifications. For example,

65 filamentary tow formed of other materials such as polyethylene, polypropylene, and the like, or even non-woven staple fibers may be used. It should be understood, however, that cellulose acetate filamentary tow is the preferred material from a commercial

standpoint. In this sense, filter plug 14 is fabricated from conventional material to function as a smoke-permeous filter plug for trapping solid particulates in the smoke passing therethrough.

70 Unlike many conventional air dilution filters, filter plug 14 is not circumscribed by a non-porous or smoke-imperious plug wrap between the plug and tipping paper 16. Rather, the air-imperious tipping paper 16 is applied directly to the plug 14 and a portion of tobacco rod 12. Tipping paper 16 circumscribes filter plug 14 along the entire length of the plug. There are no ventilation holes provided in tipping paper 16 so that ambient air cannot enter the filter plug through the tipping paper 16 nor can

80 smoke from the plug 14 seep through the tipping paper. The tipping paper 16, in addition to securing the smoke receiving end of plug 14 to one end of tobacco rod 12 in concentric end-to-end relation, also serves to conduct ambient air into the smoker's mouth which each puff on the cigarette. Specifically, the diagrammatic representation of plug 14 in *Figure 1* shows the tipping paper 16 partially torn away. This is to represent the fact that the plug 14, for the embodiment of *Figure 1*, is not grooved prior to

85 application of the tipping paper thereto. In other words, a plurality of grooves 18 are defined longitudinally in both the tipping paper 16 and plug 14, but are defined after the tipping paper is applied and the complete cigarette assembled. Grooves 18 are open to ambient along their entire length and extend from a predetermined point along the length of plug 14 to the smoke discharging end of the filter. In other

90 words, after the cigarette has been made and cut, grooves are placed in the outside of the tipping paper, to a depth in plug 14, in accordance with the exact amount of dilution desired. The number of angularly spaced grooves 14 is also determined by the amount of dilution desired. As noted, the

95 grooves extend from the smoke discharging end of the filter to a length sufficient so that the smoker's lips will not normally extend longitudinally beyond the length of the grooves. For example, the grooves can extend the entire length of plug or rod 14, or some shorter distance, as desired. Thus, the cigarette 10 of *Figure 1* can be fabricated by any conventional method and apparatus and, after it is fabricated, passes through a crimping mechanism to form grooves 18, as desired.

100 It is important to note that the groove 18, rather than being covered so that access is provided through a porous material or through ventilation holes, is open along its entire length. Since the grooves are recessed with respect to the outer periphery of the tipping paper, the grooves provide passages through the lips of the smoker which engage the outer periphery of tipping paper 16. These passages conduct air into the mouth of the smoker with each puff or draw at the smoke

105 discharging end of the filter. The absence of barriers or restrictions to the flow reduces flow impedances as compared to prior art dilution filters and thereby permits better control of the air dilution technique. In addition, since the plug wrap normally disposed between the tipping paper and the filter rod is eliminated, the cigarette 10 is simpler and less costly

to manufacture.

As described, in the fabrication of cigarette 10 of Figure 1, the grooves 18 are formed simultaneously in filter rod 14 and tipping paper 18. In cigarette 20, illustrated in Figure 2, filter rod 24 is pre-grooved with grooves 28 before application of the tipping paper 26 to secure tobacco 22 to the filter rod. In order to assure that the tipping paper 26 conforms to the grooves 28 in the filter rod, a vacuum system is employed as part of the tipping wrap machine to draw a vacuum upon the completed cigarette before the adhesive has dried. In this manner, the tipping paper is forced to conform to the pre-grooved periphery of filter rod 24. With respect to the appearance of the final product to the naked eye, cigarettes 10 and 20 appear identical. Cigarette 20 functions in the same manner as cigarette 10 so that the grooves 28, to which tipping paper 26 conforms, conduct air directly into the mouth of the smoker with each puff along with smoke filtered through rod 24.

Another cigarette embodiment 30 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 3. Tobacco rod 32 is secured in end-to-end relation with filter rod 34 as in the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2. However, filter rod 34 is circumscribed along its entire length by a non-porous or smoke-impervious plug wrap 35. It will be recognized by those familiar with this art that the smoke-impervious plug wrap includes smoke-impervious outer surfaces of foamed material which are integral with the filter plug as well as smoke-impervious wrapping material, which is not integral with the filter plug. Plural grooves 38 are defined in the plug wrap 35 and plug 34 and take the form of recesses having their depth dimension extending radially inward from plug 34 and their length dimensions extending from the smoke discharging end to a length sufficient to avoid the entire length of grooves 38 being disposed in a smoker's mouth during use. A ring of tipping paper 36 is disposed about the junction between the filter rod 34 and tobacco rod 32 to join the two rods together. Tipping paper 36 differs from tipping paper 26 and tipping paper 16 in that it is much shorter in axial length and is not grooved. Rather, the grooves 38 are defined in the smoke-impervious plug wrap 35 and extend into the filter 34, as described. Air dilution is effected in cigarette 30 in the same manner described above for cigarettes 10 and 20 of Figures 1 and 2, respectively. Specifically, grooves 38 in the plug wrap 35 are exposed to ambient and provides passages passed the smoker's lips and into the smoker's mouth. Ambient air is therefore drawn into the smoker's mouth with each draw or puff so that the ambient air enters in parallel to the filtered smoke passing through the smoke discharging end of the filter and into the smoker's mouth.

Although cigarette 30 employs a plug wrap whereas the plug wrap is eliminated in cigarettes 10 and 20, the savings on the amount of tipping paper employed may, in some cases, make up the difference in cost. Moreover, since normal tipping paper is placed directly in the mouth, the requirements thereof are considerably more stringent than would be the case in the simple ring tipping paper applica-

tion for cigarette 30. In other words, less expensive material can be used for tipping paper 36 and for tipping papers 16 and 26.

Referring now to Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings, another cigarette embodiment 40 is illustrated in accordance with the present invention. Like cigarette 30, a tobacco rod 42 is joined to a filter rod 44 which has plug wrap material 45 circumscribing its entire length. A ring of tipping paper 48 covers only a short length of both the filter rod and tobacco rod to join the two end-to-end in concentric relation. Filter rod 44 and plug wrap 45 are contoured to the shape of a cigarette holder in the manner described in my copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. , filed on , and entitled "Improved Tobacco Smoke Filter Contoured To Provide Undiluted Air Flow And Method And Apparatus For Manufacturing Same". Specifically, the generally cylindrical filter rod 44 remains generally cylindrical from its smoke receiving end to a location axially displaced therefrom and then is tapered to form a generally rectangular cross-section. A raised lip 47 at the smoke discharging end, also having a rectangular cross-section fits the smoker's lips to provide a cigarette holding function. Grooves 48 are defined longitudinally along the filter 44, into the plug wrap 45 and filter rod 44. In the case of the embodiment illustrated, wherein the rectangular cross-section of the filter near the smoke discharging end has two long sides and two short sides, the grooves 48 are defined in the short sides. It should be noted, however, that a square configuration may also be provided in which case the grooves would be provided in all four (4) sides.

The grooved filter 44 and plug wrap 45 may be fabricated in the manner described in aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. by any of the two (2) methods described therein. Specifically, a first described in that U.S. Patent Application Serial No. , particularly with respect to Figures 9-13, forms the cigarette holder shape and the grooves 48 in the filter rod 44 after it is wrapped with plug wrap 45. Alternatively, as described in relation to Figures 14 and 15 of my aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. , the filter rod 44 may be pre-shaped and pre-grooved and the plug wrap extruded thereover in the form of a plastic film which conforms precisely to the tapered and grooved periphery of the filter rod. In either case, the operation of the filter 40 is substantially the same as the filters described in relation to Figures 1-3. In other words, groove 48 is exposed to ambient air and provides a passage for that air into the smoker's mouth, past the smoker's lips. With each puff or draw on the cigarette, the smoker draws in filtered smoke from the smoke discharging end of filter 44 and ambient air via grooves 48.

Figures 5-11 illustrate end views of various grooved filters in accordance with Figures 1-3. These views are provided to show that substantially any number of grooves, with substantially any spacing therebetween, may be provided. For example, cigarette 50 of Figure 5 shows filter rod 54 and tipping paper 58 provided with a single groove 58 at the smoke discharging end of the filter. Of course, if

cigarette 50 is made in accordance with the principals of cigarette 30 of Figure 3, element 56 would, instead of being tipping paper, be plug wrap material.

5 Likewise, cigarette 60 of Figure 6 shows filter 64 and tipping paper 66 provided with two diametrically spaced grooves or recesses 68.

Cigarette 70 of Figure 7 shows plug wrap 75 and filter rod 74 provided with three equally spaced grooves or recesses 78.

10 Cigarette 80 of Figure 8 has filter rod 84 and plug wrap 85 provided with four 90°-spaced recesses or grooves 88.

15 Cigarette 90 of Figure 9 shows tipping paper 96 and filter rod 94 provided with five equally spaced recesses or grooves 98.

Cigarette 100 of Figure 10 shows plug wrap 105 and filter rod 104 provided with six equally spaced grooves or recesses 108.

20 Cigarette 110 of Figure 11 illustrates filter rod 114 and tipping paper 116 provided with eight equally spaced grooves or recesses 118. It should be noted that equal spacing between the grooves or recesses in any of the embodiments is not necessary; that is, the grooves or recesses can be grouped or spaced as desired around the periphery of the filter rod.

25 Moreover, it is not mandatory, although simpler to fabricate, that the recesses or grooves extend longitudinally parallel to the axis of the filter rod. In other words, the recesses can be skewed relative to the filter rod axis, spiraled, etc.

For all of the filtered cigarettes described hereinabove, the most important aspect is the fact that the air ventilation passage is exposed to ambient throughout its length so that air does not have to pass through porous tipping paper or restricted ventilation openings in non-porous paper. The unimpeded air flow into the smoker's mouth with each draw or puff permits accurate control over the air dilution to a degree not possible in the prior art devices. Since the air passage is open to ambient along its entire length, the filter rod requires only one wrap along its entire length, whether the wrap be the plug wrap or the tipping paper. When the plug wrap is used, only a short axial length of tipping paper is required to join the filter plug to the tobacco rod. The result is a cigarette which is simpler and less expensive to manufacture than prior art air dilution filtered cigarettes.

30 For purposes of describing the method and apparatus for manufacturing the cigarettes of the present invention, the following are expressly incorporated herein by reference: (1) my U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 281,690, filed May 07, 1981; and (2) my U.S. Patent Application Serial No. , filed .

35 While I have described and illustrated specific embodiments of my invention, it will be clear that variations of the details of construction which are specifically illustrated and described may be resorted to without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A smoke filter comprising a smoke-pervious rod and smoke-impervious wrap means circumscribing said rod along its entire length, at least one groove formed in the rod and wrap means extending longitudinally of the wrap means from at least one end thereof and being open to ambient air along its entire length.

2. A smoke filter according to claim 1 wherein the rod extends the full length of the wrap means.

3. A smoke filter according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said wrap means comprises paper circumscribing said rod along the entire length of the rod.

4. A smoke filter according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said wrap means is of plastics material extruded about and conforming to said rod.

5. A smoke filter according to claim 1 or 2 in the shape of a cigarette holder with a raised lip at its buccal end.

6. A smoke filter according to claim 5 which is generally cylindrical at its upstream end and is flattened at its buccal end and to a generally rectangular cross-section having long and short sides, a said groove extending longitudinally along at least one of said short sides.

7. A smoke filter according to any preceding claim having a plurality of said grooves spaced therearound.

8. A filter cigarette incorporating a filter according to any preceding claim.

9. A filter cigarette according to claim 8 wherein said smoke-impervious wrap means is a tipping overwrap joining the filter to the tobacco rod of the cigarette.

10. A filter cigarette according to claim 8 whose filter and tobacco rod are joined by ring tipping.

11. A smoke filter substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

12. A smoke filter substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of Figures 5 to 11 of the accompanying drawings.

13. A filter cigarette substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 11 of the accompanying drawings.

14. A smoke filter including a filter element comprising:
a smoke-pervious filter plug having first and second longitudinally-spaced ends through which smoke to be filtered flows from said first end to said second end;

smoke-impervious wrap means wrapped circumferentially about said plug; and
at least one flow passage defined as a recess in said wrap means, said recess extending from said first end and exposed to ambient air throughout its entire length.

15. A method for making filtered cigarettes comprising the steps of:

providing a filtering material including a multiplicity of fibrous members;
defining an elongated bonded zone;
continuously feeding said filtering material through said bonding zone;

- feeding a bond activating agent into contact with said filtering material in said bonding zone to bond said fibrous members to each other at spaced contact points to form an elongated, smoke-permeable filter rod defining a tortuous path for passages of smoke therethrough;
- 5 joining said filter rod in end-to-end relation with a tobacco rod by wrapping the entire filter rod member and an adjacent portion of the tobacco rod with smoke-impervious tipping material so as to juxtapose portions of the inner surface of the smoke-impervious tipping material with the exterior surface of the rod member to form sealed areas precluding passage of smoke thereacross; and
- 10 forming longitudinally continuous grooves in the form of circumferentially spaced recesses in said filter rod and said tipping material throughout a portion of the length of said filter rod extending from an end of said filter rod remote from said tobacco end.
16. Apparatus for fabricating filtered cigarettes comprising:
- a tobacco rod;
- 25 a source of bondable filtering material including a multiplicity of fibrous members;
- means for defining an elongated bonding zone;
- means for continuously feeding said filtering material through said bonding zone;
- 30 means for feeding a bond activating agent into contact with said filtering material in said bonding zone to bond said fibrous members to one another at spaced contact points to form an elongated, smoke-permeable filter rod defining a tortuous path for passage of smoke therethrough;
- 35 means for joining said tobacco rod and filter rod end-to-end by overwrapping said filter rod and an adjacent part of the tobacco rod with a tipping material so as to juxtapose portions of the inner surface of the tipping material with the exterior surface of the filter rod to form sealed areas precluding passage of smoke thereacross; and
- 40 crimping means for forming longitudinally continuous grooves in the form of circumferentially spaced recesses in said rod and said tipping material throughout at least part of the length of said filter rod.
17. A method of making filtered cigarettes comprising the steps of:
- providing a filtering material including a multiplicity of fibrous members;
- 50 defining an elongated bonding zone;
- continuously feeding said filtering material through said bonding zone;
- feeding a bond activating agent into contact with said filtering material in said bonding zone to bond said fibrous members to each other at spaced contact points to form an elongated, smoke-permeable filter rod defining a tortuous path for passage of smoke therethrough;
- 60 forming longitudinally continuous grooves in the form of circumferentially spaced recesses in said rods;
- overwrapping said filter rod with an overwrap material which conforms to said filter rod and the recesses therein so as to juxtapose towards the inner

surface of the overwrap material with the exterior surface of the rod member to form sealed areas precluding passage of smoke thereacross; and

70 joining the overwrapped filter rod to a tobacco rod in end-to-end relationship by wrapping tipping paper about a portion of the tobacco rod and only a portion of the filter rod.

18. A method of making smoke filters, the method being substantially as hereinbefore described.

19. Apparatus for making smoke filters, the apparatus being substantially as hereinbefore described.

80 New claims or amendments to claims filed on 9/2/83
Superseded claims 1-19
New or amended claims:-

1. A filter cigarette in which the filter comprises a smoke-pervious rod and smoke-impervious wrap means circumscribing said rod along its entire length, at least one groove formed in the rod and wrap means extending longitudinally of the wrap means from at least one end thereof and being open to ambient air along its entire length.

2. A filter cigarette according to claim 1 wherein the rod extends the full length of the wrap means.

3. A filter cigarette according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said wrap means comprises paper circumscribing said rod along the entire length of the rod.

4. A filter cigarette according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said wrap means is of plastics material extruded about and conforming to said rod.

5. A filter cigarette according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the filter is in the shape of a cigarette holder with a raised lip at its buccal end.

6. A filter cigarette according to claim 5 wherein the filter is generally cylindrical at its upstream end and is flattened at its buccal end to a generally rectangular cross-section having long and short sides, a said groove extending longitudinally along at least one of said short sides.

7. A filter cigarette according to any preceding claim having a plurality of said grooves spaced around the filter.

8. A filter cigarette according to any preceding claim wherein said smoke-impervious wrap means is a tipping overwrap joining the filter to the tobacco rod of the cigarette.

9. A filter cigarette according to any preceding claim whose filter and tobacco rod are joined by ring tipping.

10. A smoke filter in the shape of a cigarette holder with a raised lip at its buccal end and comprising a smoke-pervious rod and smoke-impervious wrap means circumscribing said rod along its entire length, at least one groove formed in the rod and wrap means extending longitudinally of the wrap means from at least one end thereof and being open to ambient air along its entire length.

11. A smoke filter comprising a smoke-pervious rod and smoke-impervious wrap means circumscribing said rod along its entire length, the filter being generally cylindrical at its upstream end and flattened at its buccal end to a generally rectangular

cross-section having long and short sides, and at least one groove formed in the rod and wrap means extending along at least one of said short sides from at least one end thereof and being open to ambient air along its entire length.

12. A filter cigarette substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.

13. A filter cigarette substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings.

14. A filter cigarette substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

15. A filter cigarette substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.

16. A filter cigarette according to claim 1 whose filter in end elevation is substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of Figures 5 to 11.

17. A filter according to claim 12 modified substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in any one of Figures 5 to 11 of the accompanying drawings.

18. A filter cigarette according to claim 13 or 14 modified substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in any one of Figures 5 to 7 and 9 to 11 of the accompanying drawings.

19. A tobacco smoke filter substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.